

March, 4 2021

Dear Chairman Abney and House Finance Members,

I've been a nursing home RN for 13 years. I love the work and I love my residents. They worked hard their whole lives and deserve the best care. But too many days, they don't get the care they deserve because we are working short. **Please vote yes on the Nursing Home Safe Staffing and Quality Care Act (H5012 Rep. Slater).**

Working short is not an easy thing. When we work short, our attention is divided. It's so hard to focus on the job a nurse has to do while trying to help the CNAs out. We're doing our job as a nurse while always looking out for a call light, helping patients get into the bathroom. Sometimes I work without a med tech. In that case, I'm passing meds which takes me away from my nursing responsibilities.

I have my own job to do as a nurse. The nursing job is about more than just passing meds and helping patients go to the bathroom. We need to use our expertise as a nurse to do assessments on our patients' condition based on their specific diagnosis. For respiratory patients, we're supposed to be listening to their lungs, observing their oxygen levels. For post-op patients, we need to assess the site of the surgery, chart their recovery, take off their socks to see their circulation. That's what I went to school for, that's what I should be doing. But when we're working short, I don't get to give this vital job my full attention. I'll start an assessment and then another patient will call me to use the bathroom or another patient's family will interrupt me.

Most of these patients really want to talk. They're scared, their families are scared. They don't want to be in a nursing home and they have a lot of questions. They want to ask questions and have us answer them, but we don't have time to answer them. I never tell them we are working short. I say "I'll be right back." Even though I know I won't be right back because I have ten other things to do. That's not fair to them.

One day it could be me in a nursing home bed, or it could be you. You could be in a nursing home, scared and unsure of the future. You could have questions, and your RN could be too busy to answer them fully. We need the General Assembly to pass this bill so our residents get the care they need.

Sincerely,

Folashade Badru, RN, Greenville Skilled Nursing and Rehab

Providence, RI